

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 NIC-01 ACDA-05 /073 W

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R 071420Z MAR 75

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1729

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 244

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR, UR, IZ

SUBJECT: SOVIET DISAGREEMENT WITH GOI OVER KURDISH POLICY

1. ON MARCH 4 SOVIET COUNSELLOR AVENIR KHANOV GAVE ME MOST EXPLICIT STATEMENT OF SOVIET DISAGREEMENT WITH GOI OVER KURDISH POLICY THAT I HAVE HAD FROM SOVIET OFFICIAL.

2. KHANOV SAID THAT IN EARLY 1974 GOI AND KURDS WERE NOT FAR APART IN AUTONOMY NEGOTIATIONS AND USSR HAD URGED BOTH SIDES TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS BEFORE AND DURING EARLY STAGE OF WAR. THIS ADVICE HAD BEEN REJECTED BY BOTH SIDES AND FIGHTING BROKE OUT ON LARGE SCALE. SOVIETS DO NOT LIKE FACT THAT THEIR ARMS ARE BEING USED AGAINST "NATIONALIST" MOVEMENT, EVEN IF REACTIONARY ONE, BUT ONCE ARMS IN HANDS OF A COUNTRY DONOR LOSES CONTROL. KHANOV STILL DOES NOT BELIEVE KURDS CAN BE SUBDUED THROUGH FORCE OF ARMS. HE SAID SOVIET EMBASSY NO LONGER DISCUSSES KURDISH QUESTION WITH GOI, "EVEN AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL".

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3. KHANOV ALSO SAID THAT HE CONSIDERED BAATH NATIONAL LEADERSHIP ATTACK ON SYRIA (BAGHDAD 228) AS AN ATTACK ON SOVIET MIDDLE EAST POLICY WHICH FAVORS NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT.

4. COMMENT: KHANOV'S FRANKNESS IN DESCRIBING SOVIET-IRAQI DIFFERENCES WHILE AT SAME TIME PUMPING ME ON MEANING OF ROCKEFELLER VISIT AND OTHER U.S. ACTIVITIES, SUGGEST THAT SOVIET-IRAQI RELATIONS HAVE BEEN REDUCED TO ABOUT SAME LEVEL OF COOLNESS AND PAUCITY OF DIALOGUE AS OTHER FOREIGN STATES. USSR WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY IMPORTANT ROLE FOR IRAQ AS ECONOMIC PARTNER, SUPPLIER OF ARMS, AND AS POLITICAL ALLY ON MANY INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. IN PRACTICAL TERMS, HOWEVER, IT APPEARS THAT SADDAM HUSSEIN HAS THROUGH RAPPROCHEMENT WITH WEST, LARGE OIL REVENUES, AND BAATH DOMINATION OF ALL POLITICAL LIFE, SUCCEEDED IN REDUCING SOVIET PRESENCE AND INFLUENCE TO MANAGEABLE PROPORTIONS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KURDS, WAR, SOVEREIGNTY, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BAGHDA00244
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750083-0292
From: BAGHDAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750374/aaaacods.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUN 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <30 OCT 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET DISAGREEMENT WITH GOI OVER KURDISH POLICY
TAGS: PFOR, UR, IZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006